

Import Specifications for Comprehensive Clinical Assessment Software Application (CoCASA)

Introduction:

The import process in CoCASA will basically be the same as it was for WinCASA. The user will create an import template, and use that template to import data that has been extracted from an immunization registry, billing system, patient management system, etc. The extracted data must be in the form of an ASCII text file. The ability to import from any format other than an ASCII text file is not available. The following specifications describe the format required for extract files from an immunization registry, a patient information system, etc for use in Comprehensive CASA (CoCASA). Information regarding the import process in CoCASA is also included.

Extract File Type:

The following types of ASCII files can be imported into CoCASA:

1) Fixed width text file:

In fixed length format, each record is broken up into fields of a specified length. Fields that contain less data than the field size must have trailing blanks added to make the field the required length.

2) Delimited text file using the following delimiters: semicolon, comma, tab, other (user specified):

In a delimited format, fields are separated with a semicolon, comma, tab, or other user specified delimiter. Data in the fields can be less the specified length or even empty, and it is optimal not to add trailing blanks to make a field a specified length. If data is not being sent in a particular field its delimiter will still need to be present. Field lengths are as follows:

- Text fields are truncated to 255 characters
- Phone numbers will accept 10 or 11 numerical characters (If 11 characters, the first number is dropped)
- Zip codes are truncated to 5 characters

A required field that is blank or invalid will cause the record to be rejected. Records that contain optional fields with invalid data (data in the wrong format) will still be imported; but the optional fields with the invalid data will be imported as blank.

Filler values such as "Unknown" and "Unreadable" should not be sent. If valid data is not available for a field, the field should be left blank.

NOTE:

The export file must be placed on a drive accessible to where CoCASA resides in order to be imported.

Extract File Format:

The text file must be in the format of one record per immunization as opposed to one record per patient. Each line within the file represents a different shot type and shot date with repeating demographic information for the same patient.

The formats for immunizations (shot type) that will be accepted for importing will include CPT/CVX/MVX codes/literal names/brand names. For a current list of codes, please refer to the following websites.

CPT Codes: http://www.cdc.gov/nip/registry/st_terr/tech/stds/cpt.htm

CVX Codes: http://www.cdc.gov/nip/registry/st_terr/tech/stds/hl7-cvx.htm

MVX Codes: http://www.cdc.gov/nip/registry/st_terr/tech/stds/hl7-mvx.htm

Importing the Extract File:

Before you can import data into CoCASA you must first create an import template. The import template specifies to CoCASA the order of the data fields, the format of your file, and the lengths of the fields within your file. You are also able to share your import template with other CoCASA* users.

Implementation:

Once an import template has been created, subsequent access to the import template is available by choosing File on the main menu, then "Import", "Using a Template" and then "Choose a Template". The user needs only to locate the export file. The user will be required to select an existing provider, and type in a new assessment name to store the imported data. An age range of interest may be specified if the user wishes. If no age range is specified, all records are imported. Any records outside the specified date range of interest are discarded. CoCASA will then process and import the data within the file into an immunization history record for each patient found in your file.

Required Fields:

The following are required fields:

- An identifier (either first/last name, chart number, unique ID #1, or unique ID#2)
- Date of Birth

* Import templates can be created in CoCASA and then shared among all users within a grantee area. This option eliminates the need for individual users within one grantee area to recreate the same import template. One template can be created and shared among all users.

NIP will accept import templates from outside agencies. These import templates can be sent to the CoCASA technical staff at CDC/NIP for inclusion in the next update to CoCASA. Once the software is updated and released, the import templates received will be available in the downloaded version of CoCASA. Import templates to be included in Version 2.0 of CoCASA (available in the fall of 2006) must be received by May 1, 2006.